United Nations A/61/934–S/2007/326

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda item 26
Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 30 May 2007 from the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you the report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its mission to Burundi, which was conducted from 9 to 15 April 2007 (PBC/1/BDI/2).

In his letter dated 21 June 2006, the President of the Security Council requested the advice of the Peacebuilding Commission on the situations in Burundi and Sierra Leone. In its report on its mission to Burundi, the Commission has summarized, in particular, the gaps in terms of meeting peacebuilding priorities that continue to constitute obstacles to longer-term development in Burundi, and has also highlighted the important progress that the country has made towards achieving sustainable peace.

The mission was conducted to obtain first-hand information about the situation in the country and assess challenges to peacebuilding; discuss with the Government and other stakeholders gaps within priority areas for peacebuilding; agree on the development of an integrated peacebuilding strategy; and communicate to stakeholders on the ground the main principles and purposes of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The mission identified a number of priorities for peacebuilding, notably the implementation of the 2006 ceasefire agreement with Palipehutu-FNL; the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms and the consolidation of inclusive and participatory governance; ensuring the full participation of civil society; the need for additional resources for the implementation of critical interventions in priority areas across all sectors; the need to build national capacity in all sectors; and the need to ensure that the basic social and economic rights of all, particularly those of vulnerable women and youth, are fulfilled in order to meaningfully engage the population in peacebuilding efforts in the priority areas.

The mission also noted that the Government of Burundi, with the support of the international community, has undertaken a number of steps to address the

07-36739 (E) 110607

remaining challenges. In order to ensure that the engagement of the Peacebuilding Commission with Burundi enhances the peace consolidation efforts, the Government of Burundi and the Commission agreed to develop a strategic framework as a medium-term framework for cooperation. The strategic framework will serve as a framework for mutual accountability and will track commitments and actions to be undertaken by the Government and its partners in the pursuit of sustainable peace.

The support of the General Assembly and the Security Council for the development of the strategic framework and its implementation will be critical for its success. The Assembly and the Council may wish to call on all stakeholders, including the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi, as well as international partners, to fully engage in the process of the development of the strategic framework and its timely implementation.

The round table that was held in Bujumbura on 24 and 25 May 2007 marked a critical milestone for the country and offered the international community an opportunity to renew its commitments to supporting the recovery, reconstruction and development of Burundi. Every effort was made to encourage all stakeholders in Burundi to participate and a successful outcome of the round table was achieved.

The completion of the Commission's first field missions marks a new stage in its work to ensure sustainable peace in the countries with which it is engaged, including through the establishment of integrated peacebuilding strategies, and provides an opportunity to update the members of the General Assembly and Security Council on developments and progress achieved to date.

As we begin the task of drafting the first annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission, let me assure you of our commitment to keep the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations bodies abreast of our deliberations.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 26, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ismael Abraão Gaspar **Martins**
Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission